

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2005

The Honorable James Sensenbrenner
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner and Ranking Member Conyers:

We write to urge you to resist attempts to weaken the Senate passed version of the Patriot Act reauthorization bill, S. 1389, particularly with regard to Section 215, the controversial business records provision, often called the "library records provision." We believe that the changes S. 1389 makes to Section 215 provide important safeguards of Americans' library and bookstore records and reflect the desire of a majority of House members, who voted 238-187 on June 15th to provide greater privacy protections for readers.

We are particularly pleased with the greater relevance standard for Section 215 orders included in S. 1389. Under this language, the FBI would be required to provide facts showing reason to believe that the records sought are relevant to a terrorism investigation, and that these records are somehow connected to an agent of a foreign power, in order to obtain a Section 215 order. The House bill, however, does not require any facts establishing a link between the person whose records are being sought and a terrorism investigation or a crime. Clearly, the higher relevance standard in S. 1389 is preferable when one is concerned about the protection of Americans' civil liberties.

S.1389 will allow for greater Congressional oversight of Section 215 by requiring the Department of Justice to report annually to Congress the total number of applications made under Section 215 and the total number of applications granted, modified, or denied under Section 215 for numerous types of records including library or bookstore records.

In addition, S.1389 includes a four-year sunset for Section 215 as opposed to the ten-year sunset in the House bill. We all agree that had the sixteen sunsets not been included in the original Patriot Act, we might not have had the necessary committee hearings and debate on the law. These proceedings have allowed Members of Congress to voice their concerns regarding the law and to propose appropriate amendments to protect the civil liberties of Americans. Because we believe the preservation of Americans' civil liberties is of the utmost importance, we see no reason to extend the sunset beyond four years. A four year sunset will give Congress the ability to review the law and ensure that it is working to protect Americans from another terrorist attack while at the same time safeguarding Americans' constitutional rights.

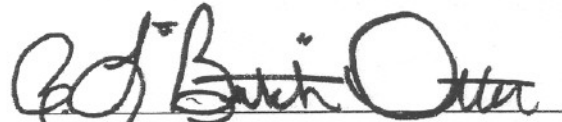
Nearly 400 communities, as well as seven state legislatures, have passed resolutions objecting to the anti-liberty and anti-privacy sections of the Patriot Act. We are pleased that the Senate heeded the calls of millions of Americans and proposed reasonable changes to the law.

Again, we encourage you to include the Senate language regarding Section 215 in the final version of the Patriot Act reauthorization bill. This language, while providing the necessary tools to the Justice Department and the FBI to fight terrorism, still allows for the protection and preservation of Americans' civil liberties.

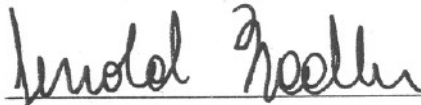
Sincerely,



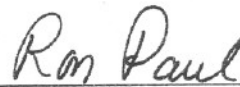
Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress



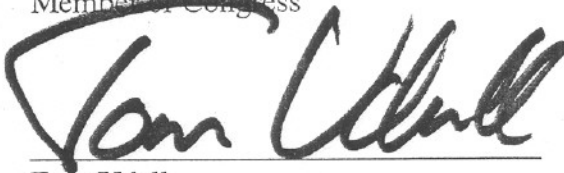
C.L. "Butch" Otter
Member of Congress



Ferrolod Nadler
Member of Congress



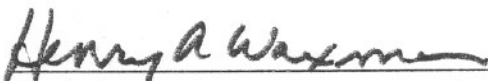
Ron Paul
Member of Congress



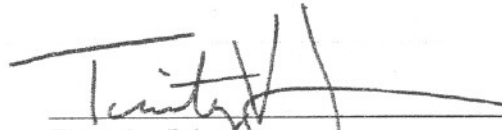
Tom Udall
Member of Congress



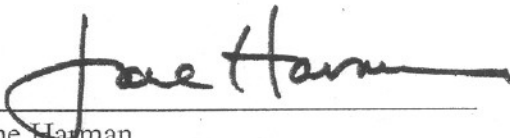
Roscoe Bartlett
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



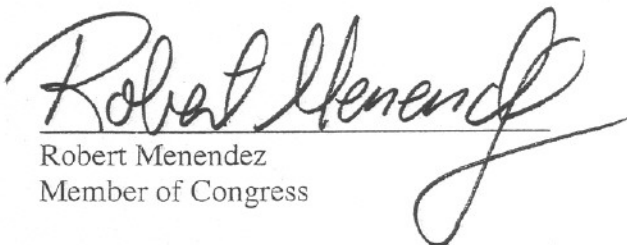
Timothy Johnson
Member of Congress



Jane Harman
Member of Congress



Donald Manzullo
Member of Congress



Robert Menendez
Member of Congress



Vernon Ehlers
Member of Congress

Tom Lantos

Tom Lantos
Member of Congress

Bob Ney

Bob Ney
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott

Bobby Scott
Member of Congress

Don Young

Don Young
Member of Congress

Barney Frank

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Connie Mack

Connie Mack
Member of Congress

George Miller

George Miller
Member of Congress

Jim Leach

Jim Leach
Member of Congress

John W. Oliver

John Oliver
Member of Congress

Dennis J. Kucinich

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Jim Moran

Jim Moran
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin

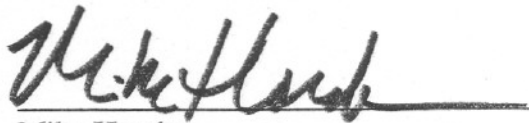
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

Ron Kind

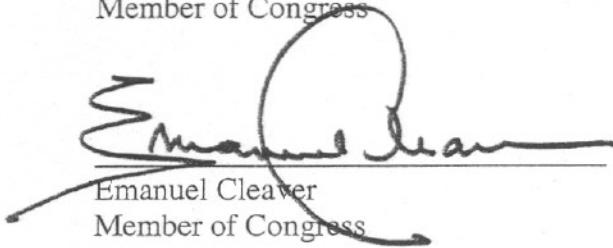
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



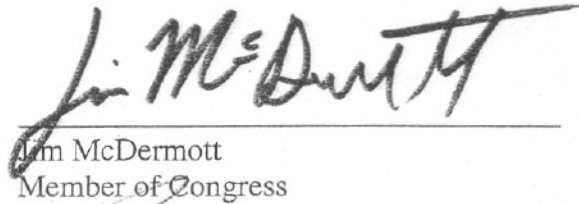
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



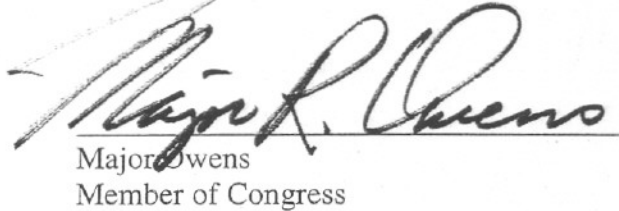
Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



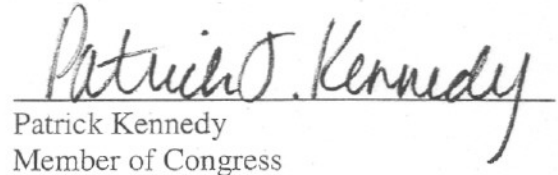
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



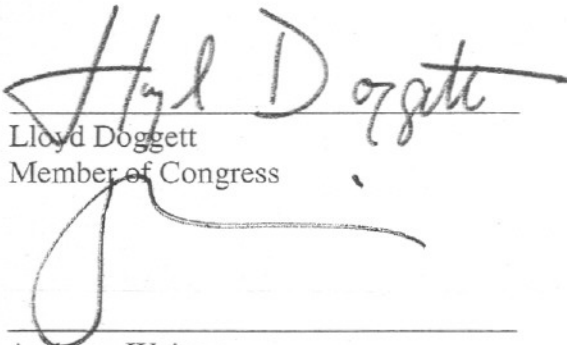
Major Owens
Member of Congress



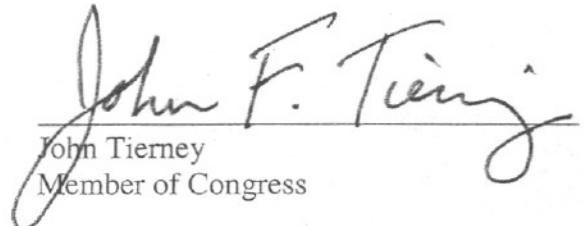
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



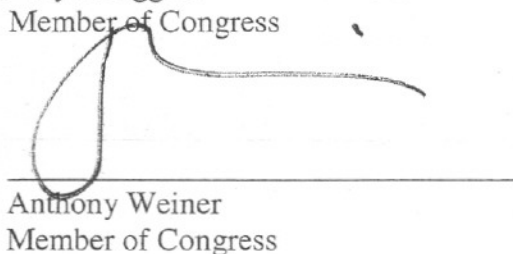
Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress



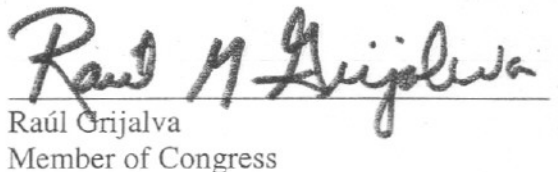
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress



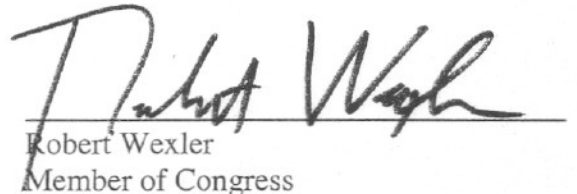
Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



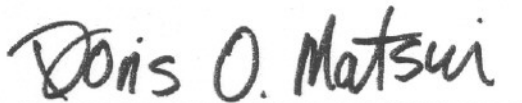
Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Albert Wynn
Member of Congress



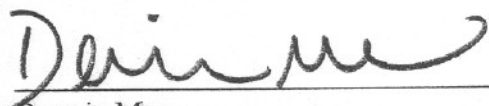
Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



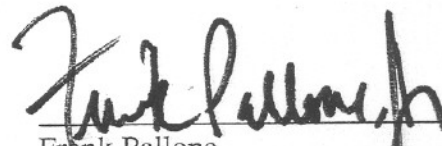
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



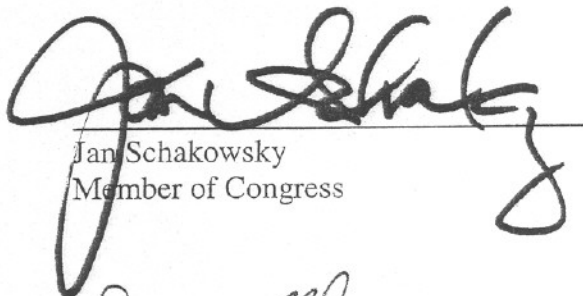
Ed Case
Member of Congress



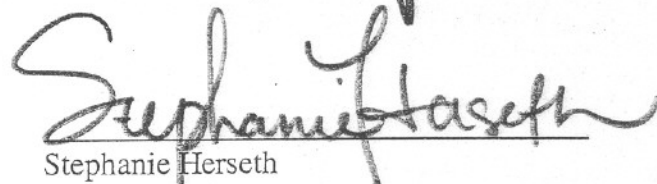
Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



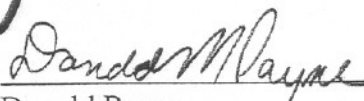
Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



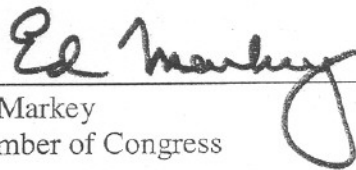
Stephanie Herseth
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress




Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



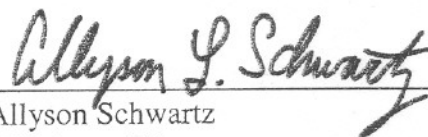
Ed Markey
Member of Congress



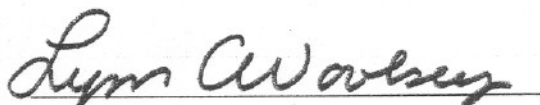
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



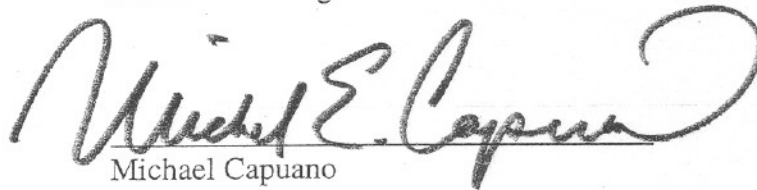
Diane Watson
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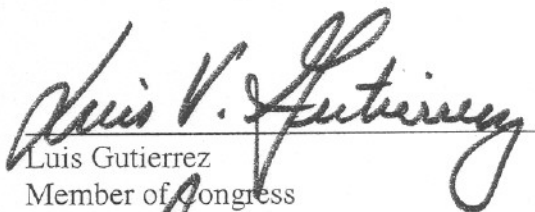
Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



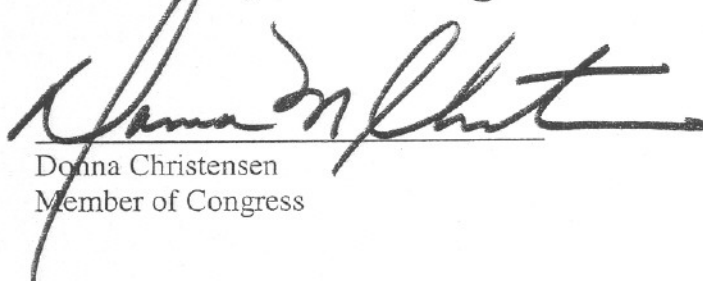
Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



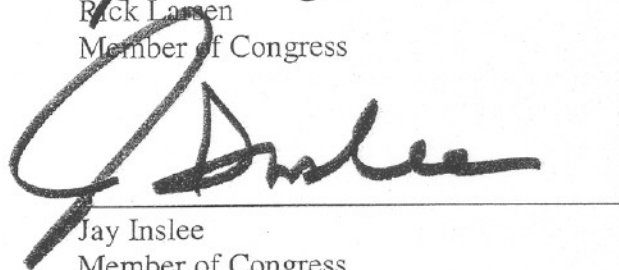
Luis Gutierrez
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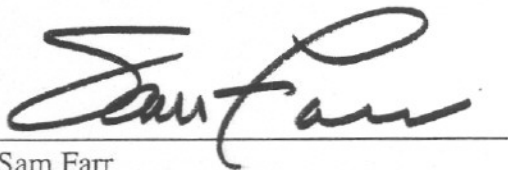
Rick Larsen
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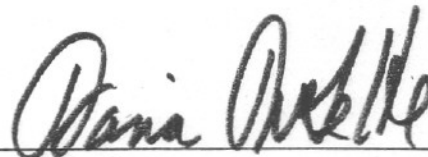
Donna Christensen
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Jay Inslee
Member of Congress



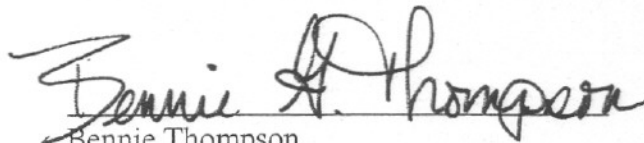
Sam Farr
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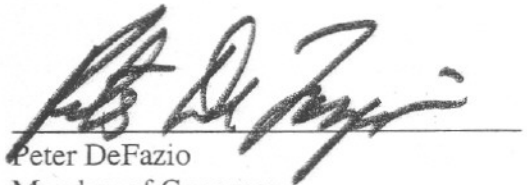
Diana DeGette
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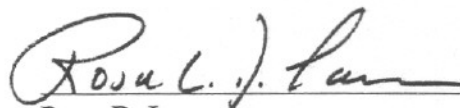
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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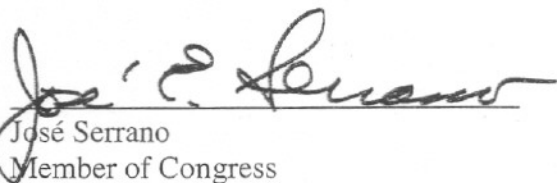
Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



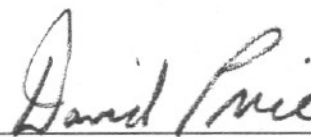
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



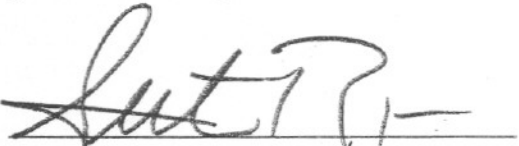
Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



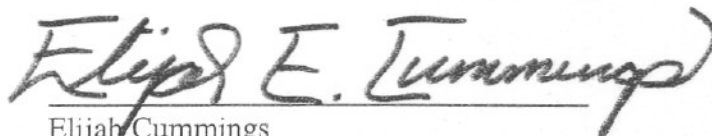
José Serrano
Member of Congress



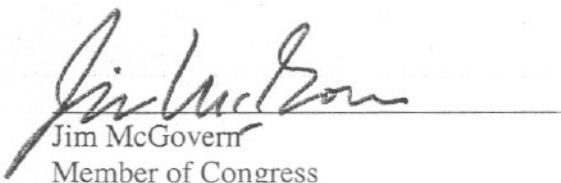
David Price
Member of Congress



Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



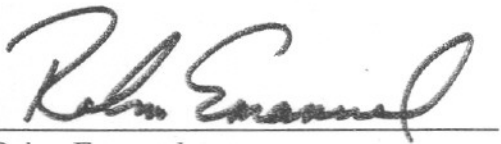
Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



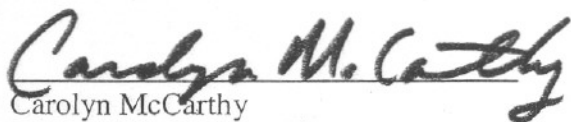
Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



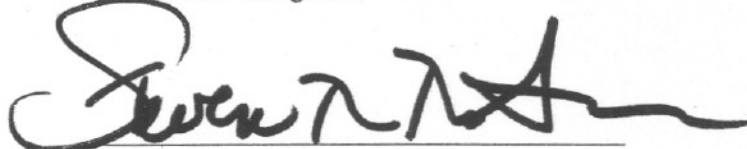
Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress



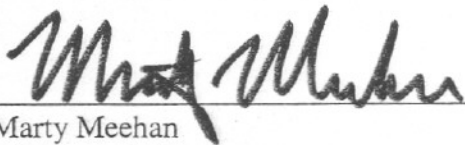
Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress



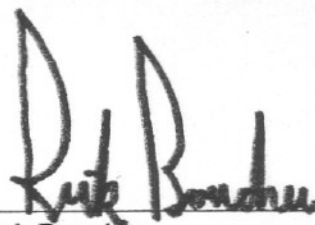
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



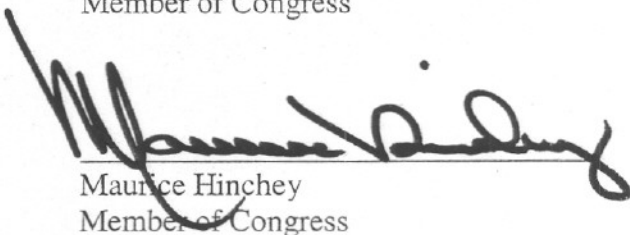
Steven Rothman
Member of Congress



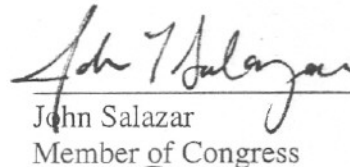
Marty Meehan
Member of Congress



Rick Boucher
Member of Congress



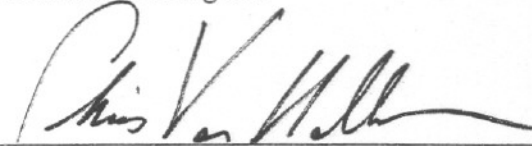
Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



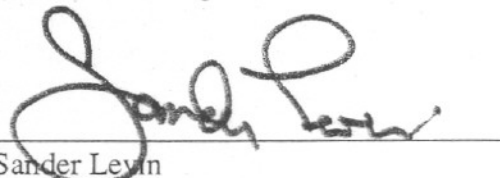
John Salazar
Member of Congress



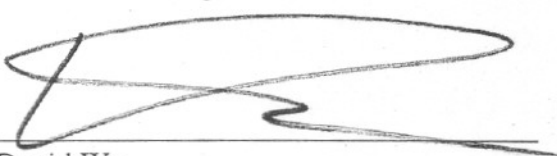
Michael McNulty
Member of Congress



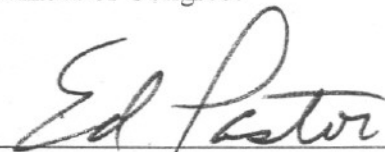
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



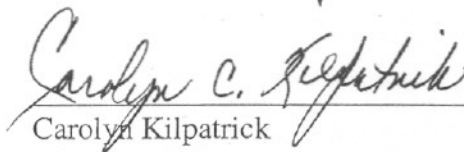
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



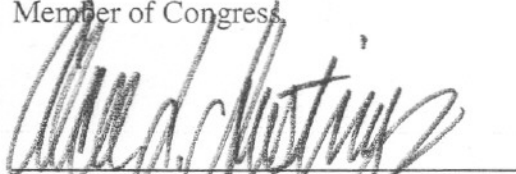
David Wu
Member of Congress



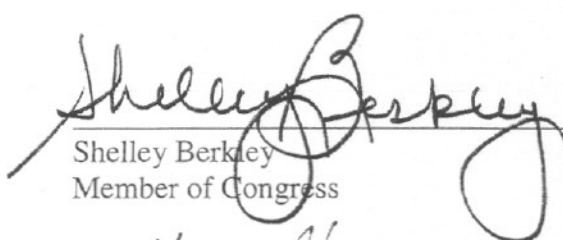
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



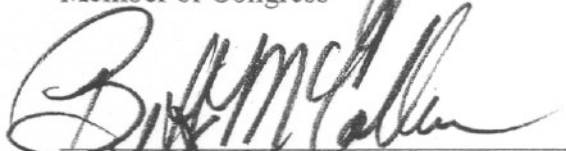
Carolyn Kilpatrick
Member of Congress




Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



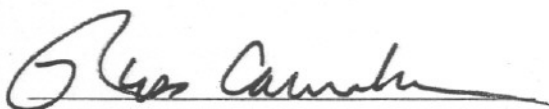
Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



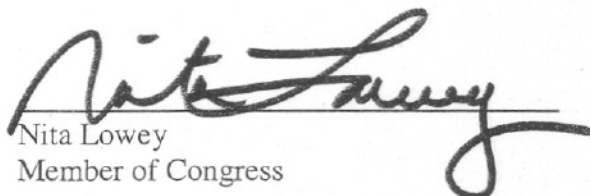
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



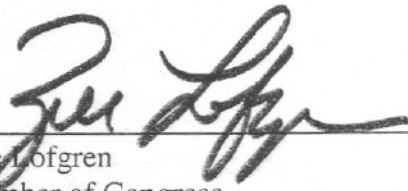
Gene Green
Member of Congress



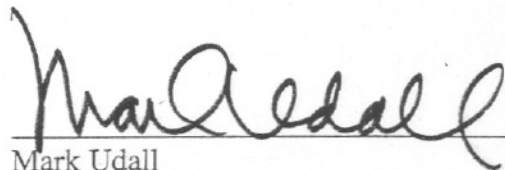
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



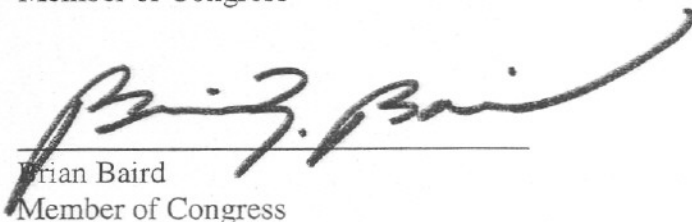
Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



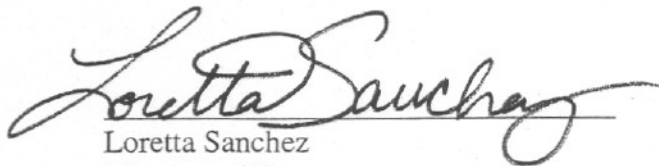
Mark Udall
Member of Congress



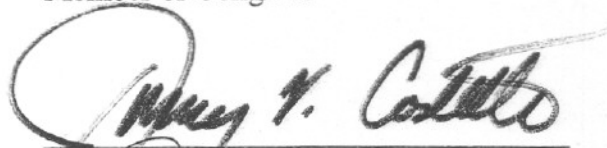
Brian Baird
Member of Congress



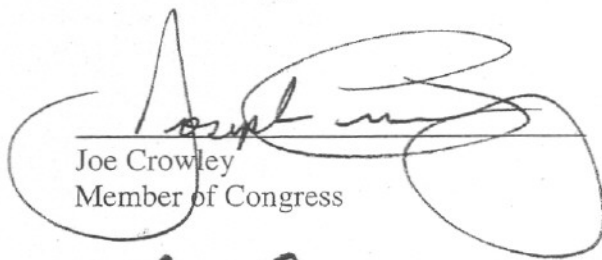
Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress



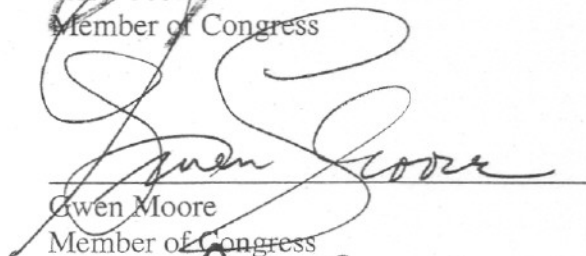
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Jerry Costello
Member of Congress



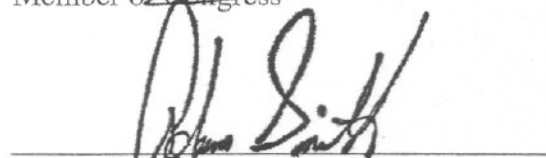
Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



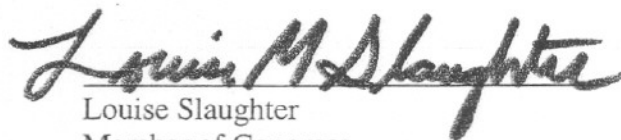
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress




Lois Capps
Member of Congress



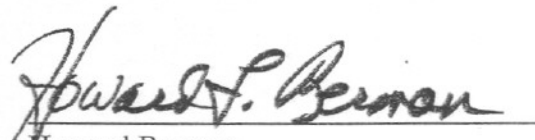
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



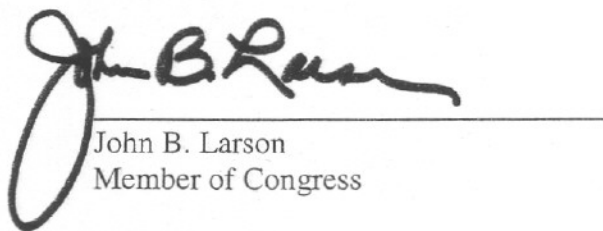
Lane Evans
Member of Congress



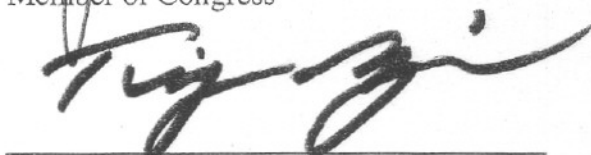
Howard Berman
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson
Member of Congress



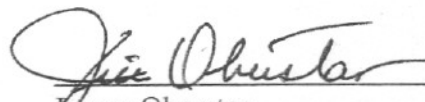
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress



James Oberstar
Member of Congress



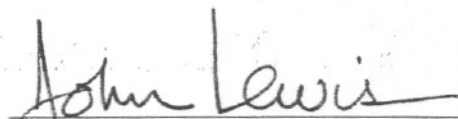
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



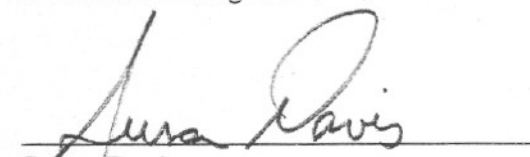
Ed Towns
Member of Congress



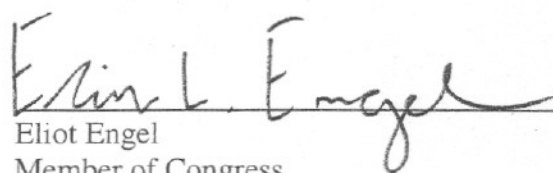
Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress



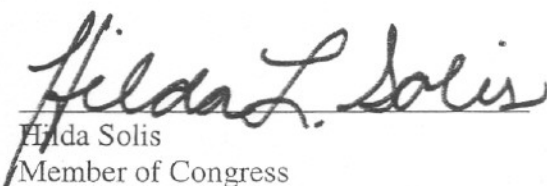
John Lewis
Member of Congress



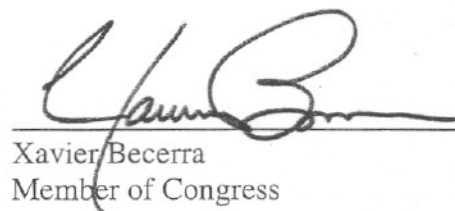
Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



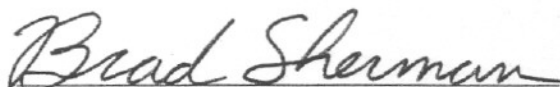
Hilda Solis
Member of Congress




Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



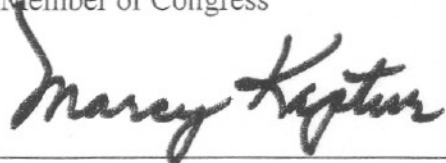
Joe Baca
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



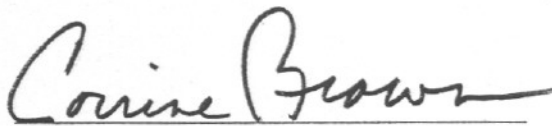
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



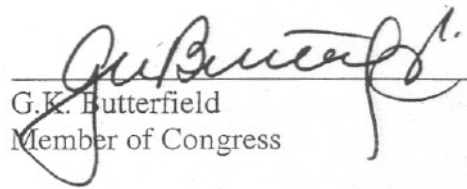
Robert Andrews
Member of Congress



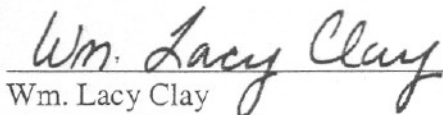
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



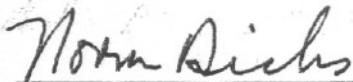
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



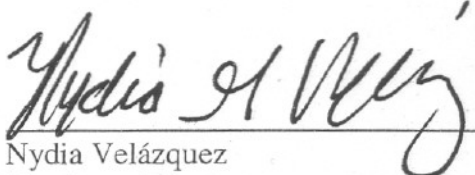
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Juanita Millender-McDonald
Member of Congress



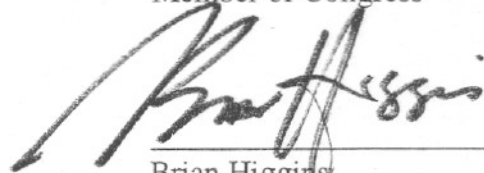
Norman Dicks
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



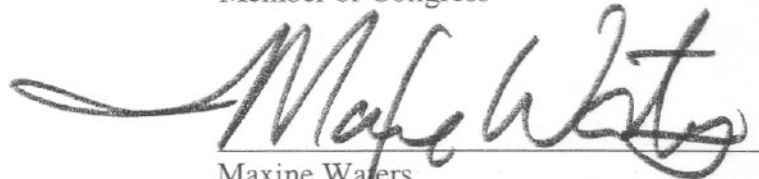
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Martin Olav Sabo
Member of Congress



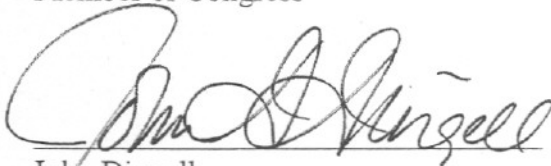
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress




Tom Allen
Member of Congress



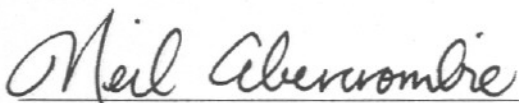
James Langevin
Member of Congress



John Dingell
Member of Congress



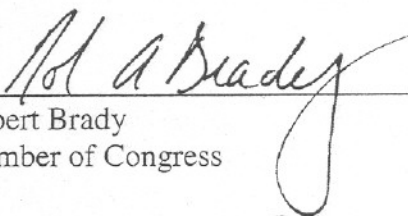
David Scott
Member of Congress



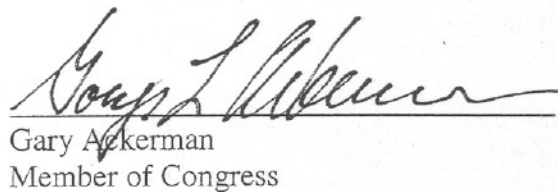
Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



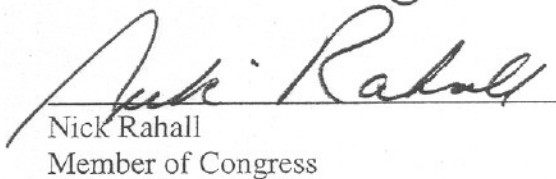
Julia Carson
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress



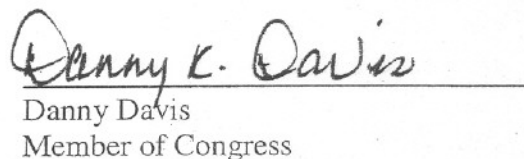
Nick Rahall
Member of Congress



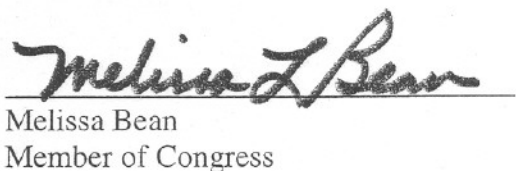
Marion Berry
Member of Congress



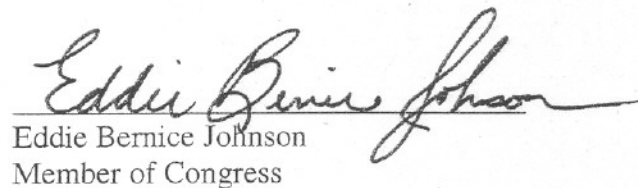
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



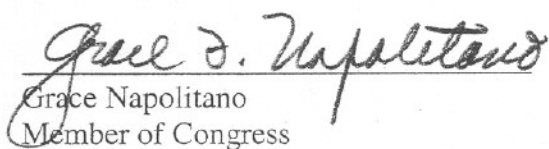
Danny Davis
Member of Congress



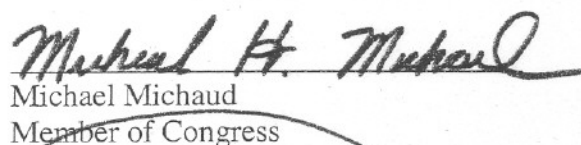
Melissa Bean
Member of Congress



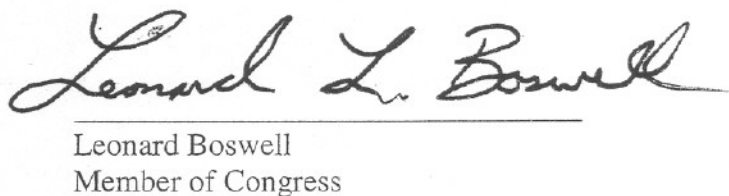
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



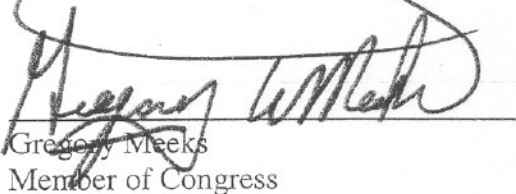
Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



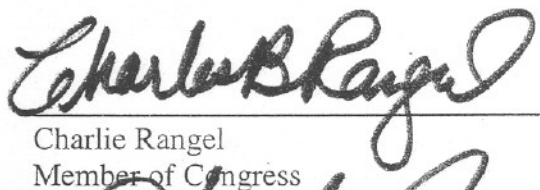
Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



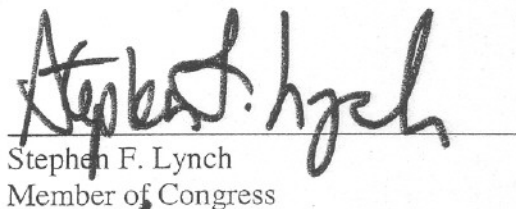
Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



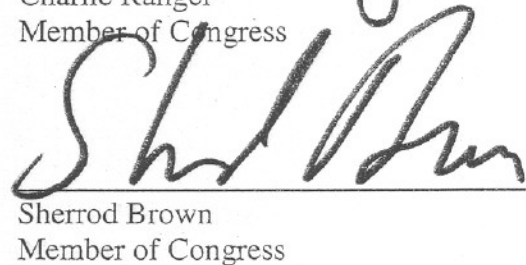
Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



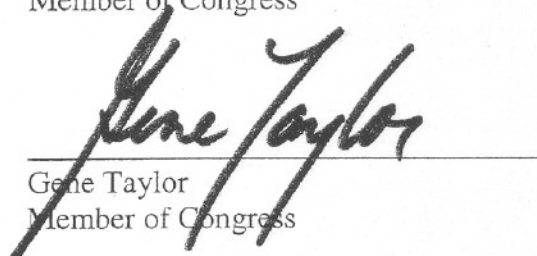
Charlie Rangel
Member of Congress



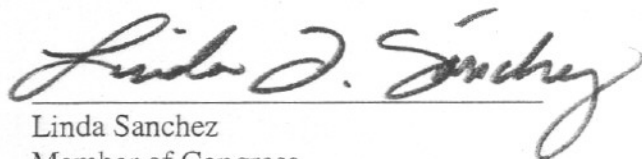
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



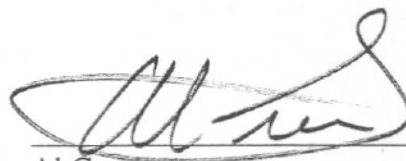
Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



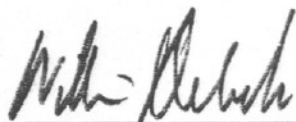
Gene Taylor
Member of Congress



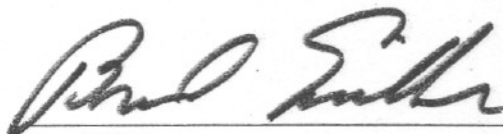
Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress



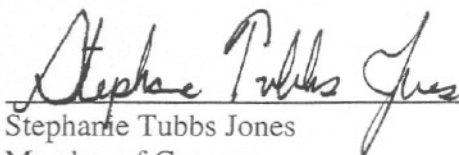
Al Green
Member of Congress



William Delahunt
Member of Congress



Brad Miller
Member of Congress



Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress



Ted Strickland
Member of Congress



John Spratt
Member of Congress